UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE:

JUAN CARLOS GIL,

Plaintiff,

V.

DAVIMARY, INC and LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE,

Defendants.	
	/

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated mobility-impaired individuals (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), sues DAVIMARY, INC and LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE, (hereinafter "Defendants"), and as grounds alleges:

JURISDICTION, PARTIES. AND VENUE

- 1. This is an action for injunctive relief, a declaration of rights, attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*, (the "Americans with Disabilities Act" or "ADA") and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
- 2. The Court has original jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims arising under 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 42 U.S.C. § 12117(a).
- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, and may render declaratory judgment on the existence or nonexistence of any right under 42 U.S.C. § 12181, et seq.
 - 4. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, is an individual over eighteen years of age, with a

residence in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and is otherwise sui juris.

- 5. At all times material, Defendant, DAVIMARY, INC., owned and operated a commercial retail center located at 13800 SW 88th Street, Miami, Florida 33186 (hereinafter the "Commercial Property") and conducted a substantial amount of business in that place of public accommodation in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Defendant, DAVIMARY, INC., holds itself out to the public as "Higate Square".
- 6. At all times material, Defendant, DAVIMARY, INC., was and is a Foreign Profit Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business in Miami, Florida.
- 7. At all times material, Defendant, LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE owned and operated a commercial restaurant located at 13856 SW 88th Street, Suite #1304, Miami, Florida 33186¹ (hereinafter the "Commercial Restaurant") and conducted a substantial amount of business in that place of public accommodation in Miami-Dade County, Florida.
- 8. At all times material, Defendant, LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE, was and is a Florida Profit Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business in Miami, Florida.
- 9. Venue is properly located in the Southern District of Florida because Defendants' Commercial Property is located in Miami-Dade County, Florida, Defendants regularly conduct business within Miami-Dade County, Florida, and because a substantial part(s) of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

¹ This address is located within the retail shopping center and place of public accommodation 13800 SW 88th Street, Miami, Florida 33186 owned and operated by landlord Defendant, DAVIMARY, INC.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 10. Although over thirty (30) years have passed since the effective date of Title III of the ADA, Defendant has yet to make its facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- 11. Congress provided commercial businesses one and a half years to implement the Act. The effective date was January 26, 1992. In spite of this abundant lead-time and the extensive publicity the ADA has received since 1990, Defendants continue to discriminate against people who are disabled in ways that block them from access and use of Defendants' businesses and properties.
- 12. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in 28 CFR 36.201 and requires landlords and tenants to be liable for compliance.
- 13. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, is an individual with disabilities as defined by and pursuant to the ADA. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, is substantially limited in major life activities due to his impairment and requires the use of a wheelchair to ambulate.
- 14. Defendant, DAVIMARY, INC., owns, operates and/or oversees the Commercial Property, its general parking lot and parking spots.
- 15. The subject Commercial Property is open to the public and is located in Miami, Florida, in Miami-Dade County.
- 16. The individual Plaintiff visits the Commercial Property and businesses located within the Commercial Property, regularly, to include visits to the Commercial Property and businesses located within the Commercial Property on or about May 12, 2022 and encountered multiple violations of the ADA that directly affected his ability to use and enjoy the Commercial Property and businesses located therein. He often visits the Commercial Property and businesses

located within the Commercial Property in order to avail himself of the goods and services offered there, and because it is approximately thirteen (13) miles from his residence and is near other businesses he frequents as a patron. He plans to return to the Commercial Property within two (2) months of the filing of this Complaint, specifically before September 1, 2022.

- 17. Plaintiff resides nearby in the same County and state as the Commercial Property and the businesses located within the Commercial Property, has regularly frequented the Defendants' Commercial Property and the businesses located within the Commercial Property for the intended purposes because of the proximity to his residence and other businesses that he frequents as a patron and intends to return to the Commercial Property before September 1, 2022.
- 18. The Plaintiff found the Commercial Property, and the businesses located within the Commercial Property to be rife with ADA violations. The Plaintiff encountered architectural barriers at the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property and wishes to continue his patronage and use of each of the premises.
- 19. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers that are in violation of the ADA at the subject Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property. The barriers to access at the Commercial Property, and the businesses located within the Commercial Property have each denied or diminished Plaintiff's ability to visit the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property, and have endangered his safety in violation of the ADA. The barriers to access, which are set forth below, have likewise posed a risk of injury(ies), embarrassment, and discomfort to Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, and others similarly situated.
 - 20. Defendants, DAVIMARY, INC. and LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A

RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE, own and/or operate a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201 (a) and 36.104. Defendants, DAVIMARY, INC. and LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE, is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that Defendant, DAIVMARY, INC. and LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE, owns and operates is the Commercial Property/ Restaurant located at 13800-13856 SW 88th Street, Miami, Florida 33186.

- 21. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the described Commercial Property and the businesses located within the Commercial Property, including but not necessarily limited to the allegations in Counts I through II of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination at the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property, in violation of the ADA. Plaintiff desires to visit the Commercial Property and businesses located therein, not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property are in compliance with the ADA, so that he and others similarly situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property without fear of discrimination.
- 22. Defendant, DAIVMARY, INC, as landlord and owner of the Commercial Property Business, is responsible for all ADA violations listed in this complaint.
 - 23. Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing

threat of discrimination from the Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the described Commercial Property and businesses located within the Commercial Property, but not necessarily limited to the allegations in this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination at the Commercial Property, and businesses within the Commercial Property, in violation of the ADA. Plaintiff desires to visit the Commercial Property and businesses within the Commercial Property, not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the Commercial Property and businesses located within the Commercial Property, but to assure himself that the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property are in compliance with the ADA, so that he and others similarly situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property without fear of discrimination.

24. Defendants have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying him access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the Commercial Property, and businesses located within the Commercial Property, as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 12182 et seq.

COUNT I- ADA VIOLATIONS FOR COMMON AREAS AS TO DEFENDANT, DAVIMARY, INC.

- 25. The Plaintiff adopts and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 24 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 26. Defendant, DAVIMARY, INC., has discriminated, and continues to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing, inter alia, to have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if a Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A list of the violations that Plaintiff encountered during his visit to

the Commercial Property, include but are not limited to, the following:

A. Parking

- i. Accessible spaces lack clear and level aisles and have slopes >2%, endangering Plaintiff when unloading and violating the ADAAG and ADAS Section 502.
- ii. Accessible spaces are not located on firm, stable and level slip-resistant surfaces preventing safe use by Plaintiff, in violation of the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Section 502.
 - B. Entrance Access and Path of Travel
- Ramps lack compliant landings at top and bottom of each run (30" rise max) endangering Juan
 Gil and violating the ADAAG and ADAS Section 405.

COUNT II- ADA VIOLATIONS AS TO DEFENDANTS, DAVIMARY, INC AND LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION

- 27. The Plaintiff adopts and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 24 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 28. Defendants, DAVIMARY, INC. and LEUNG XUAN CORPORATION D/B/A RUSON JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE, have discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing, inter alia, to have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if a Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A list of the violations that Plaintiff encountered during his visit to the Commercial Property, include but are not limited to, the following:

A. Access to Goods and Services

- i. Protruding objects greater than 4" into paths above 27" violate ADAAG Section 4.4.
- ii. Counters are in excess of 36", preventing Plaintiff from using, in violation of Section 7.2 (1) of the ADAAG.

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B. Restrooms

- i. Plaintiff cannot access the restroom at the Commercial Property because the restroom door has improper hardware, violating Section 4.13.9 of the ADAAG.
- ii. Plaintiff unable to use mirror due to bottom-reflecting surface being mounted at a height >40" AFF, violating the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS.
- iii. Plaintiff is unable to reach dispenser controls as they are located >48" AFF, which exceed limits in ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sec. 308.
- iv. Stall door is not self-closing and/or lacks proper hardware, preventing use by Plaintiff, violating 2010 ADAS Sec. 604.
- v. Grab bars do not comply with the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sections 604 and 609, creating a hazardous condition for Plaintiff.
- vi. Plaintiff is unable to safely use toilet due to improper centerline from side wall, denying access to Plaintiff, violating the 2010 ADAS.
- vii. Toilet flush valve not mounted on wide side, denying access to Plaintiff, violating the ADAAG and 2010 ADAS Sec. 604.

RELIEF SOUGHT AND THE BASIS

29. The discriminatory violations described in this Complaint are not an exclusive list of the Defendants' ADA violations. Plaintiff requests an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and barriers to access in conjunction with Rule 34 and timely notice. Plaintiff further requests to inspect any and all barriers to access that were concealed by virtue of the barriers' presence, which prevented Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, from further ingress, use, and equal

enjoyment of the Commercial Property and the business therein; Plaintiff requests to be physically present at such inspection in conjunction with Rule 34 and timely notice. Plaintiff requests the inspection in order to participate in crafting a remediation plan to address Plaintiff's request for injunctive relief.

- 30. The individual Plaintiff, and all other individuals similarly situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities privileges, benefits, programs and activities offered by Defendants' Commercial Property and the business within the Commercial Property; and has otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendants because of the Defendants' ADA violations as set forth above. The individual Plaintiff, and all others similarly situated, will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy the discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Plaintiff further requests a remediation plan and the opportunity to participate in the crafting of the remediation plan.
- 31. Defendants have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying him access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of their places of public accommodation or commercial facility, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq. and 28 CFR 36.302 et seq. Furthermore, the Defendants continue to discriminate against Plaintiff, and all those similarly situated, by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with

disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- 32. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law, will suffer irreparable harm, and have a clear legal right to the relief sought. Further, injunctive relief will serve the public interest and all those similarly situated to Plaintiff. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses from Defendant pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
- 33. A Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled when such removal is readily achievable for their place of public similarly situated, will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy the discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff require an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 34. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if a Defendant have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiff or waived by the Defendants.
- 35. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188, the Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to alter the property where Defendants operate their business, located within the Commercial Property located in Miami-Dade County, the interiors, exterior areas, and the common exterior areas of the Commercial Property and restaurant business

to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other mobility-

impaired persons; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendants cure their violations

of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, JUAN CARLOS GIL, respectfully requests that the

Honorable Court issue (i) a Declaratory Judgment determining Defendants, at the commencement

of the subject lawsuit, was and is in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act,

42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq.; (ii) Injunctive relief against Defendants, including an order to make all

readily achievable alterations to the facilities; or to make such facilities readily accessible to and

usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require Defendants

to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications

are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or

accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be

necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or

otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and

services; (iii) An award of attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §

12205; and (iv) such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under

Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dated: July 8, 2022

GARCIA-MENOCAL & PEREZ, P.L.

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